

A **TRUE** BOOK



The Pennsylvania Colony



Betsy Ross made tents and uniforms for the Continental army.

KEVIN CUNNINGHAM



SCHOLASTIC

Timeline of Pennsylvania Colony History

10,000 BCE



Ancient Native Americans begin to settle in present-day Pennsylvania.



1609



Explorer Henry Hudson sails into Delaware Bay.



1682



The construction of Philadelphia begins.



1774



The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia.

1781



The British surrender to American colonists.

1790

Philadelphia becomes the temporary capital of the United States





First Nation

Several Native American groups had lived in Pennsylvania for centuries before Europeans came to colonize it. The Susquehannocks were an **Iroquois** people. They lived near the Susquehanna River. The Lenni-Lenape lived near the Delaware River and the Atlantic coast to the east. Lenni-Lenape means the “true people” in their language. They farmed, hunted, and fished. Their community was made up of about 20,000 people in 1600.


Lenni-Lenape women oversaw farms that grew maize (corn), squash, and other crops. Men hunted deer and turkeys with bows and short spears. They fished in rivers and along the ocean coast.

The Lenni-Lenape built longhouses in their farming communities.



Land of Plenty

English explorer Henry Hudson sailed his ship into Delaware Bay in 1609. Hudson worked for the Dutch East India Company. He was hired to find a water route that connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Hudson did not discover such a passage. But he found a land with a lot of rich soil, thick forests, and wild animals. He wrote to his employers in the Netherlands to tell them what he had found.



Hudson River and Hudson Bay are named after Henry Hudson.



Fur trading was a major part of the European settlers' interactions with American Indians.

Hudson's discovery gave the Netherlands a quick start on settling the land around Delaware Bay. Dutch fur traders set up trading posts along the Delaware River at the bay's northern end. They offered the Lenni-Lenape goods such as metal knives and sturdy duffel cloth. In return, the traders received the furs of beaver and other animals that could be sold for a profit in Europe.

Settlers Arrive

Two ships from Sweden arrived in 1638 with Swedish and Finnish families. They planned to settle in the area. Their leader was Peter Minuit. Minuit had already served as governor of New Amsterdam, present-day New York City. He now worked for a company that wanted to establish a **colony** to sell valuable furs and tobacco.

Though he worked for the Swedish, Peter Minuit was Dutch.

Peter Minuit
purchased
Manhattan
Island from the
local natives for
a very small
sum of money.



New Sweden

The settlers built Fort Christina as a shelter in case of attack by Indians or other Europeans. They called their colony New Sweden. Some colonists traded for furs with friendly native groups. Others learned how to farm from the Lenni-Lenape. The settlers added maize, tomatoes, squash, and other native foods to their diets. Forests in the area provided the settlers with wood to build houses, make wooden farming tools, and heat their homes.

The fertile soil along the Delaware River made the settlers' farms a great success.



By 1655,
about 500
settlers live in
New Sweden.





New Sweden's location along the Delaware River made it a desirable location for colonization.

A Change of Rulers

New Sweden was a poor and small colony. It fell to the control of the Netherlands in 1655. English soldiers captured the colony nine years later without a fight. They told the small population of Dutch, Swedes, and Finns that they had become **subjects** of England. More English colonists soon arrived to join them. But it was the arrival of a new leader in 1682 that brought even greater changes.

William Penn

King Charles II gave Englishman William Penn a **charter** in 1681 that made him owner of the colony. The king named the colony Pennsylvania. This meant "Penn's Woods" in Latin. Penn planned to make Pennsylvania a place where people could freely practice their religion. This was not allowed in England. Penn called his plan "a holy experiment." He had been jailed years earlier for his Quaker religious beliefs in England.

In addition to Pennsylvania, Penn controlled the land that later became Delaware.



William Penn named Pennsylvania in honor of his father.





William Penn encouraged good relationships with the local natives.

Penn's Leadership

Penn allowed the colonists to elect government representatives when he arrived in Pennsylvania in 1682. He also organized a treaty with the Lenni-Lenape promising fair treatment. Penn was inspired by Quaker teachings. He wrote the Frame of Government. The Frame was a **constitution** to govern the colony. It promised protection of property, fair trials and punishments, freedom to worship, and the right to disagree with government.

The colony began building a city in 1682 that Penn himself had planned. It was to be called Philadelphia, the Greek word for “city of brotherly love.” Five thousand people lived in the city by 1697. The peaceful Quaker lifestyle at first made Philadelphia a quiet city. But the promise of religious freedom soon brought people of many different faiths from countries such as Germany and Wales. Twenty thousand people lived in Pennsylvania by 1700.


Today, Philadelphia is home to more than 1.5 million people.

Philadelphia grew to become a major port city.



Life as a Colonist

Quaker beliefs influenced life in early Pennsylvania. The Frame of Government proposed that children should learn to write by age 12. This was a worthy goal. Many adults in the 13 colonies were **illiterate**. Quakers believed in equality. Both girls and boys attended school. Children attended class for only part of the day. They spent the rest of their time doing chores. Boys learned their fathers' trades by working alongside them.



Quaker schools often consisted of a single classroom.



Farm work was difficult, but the rewards were great for the early German settlers.

On the Farm

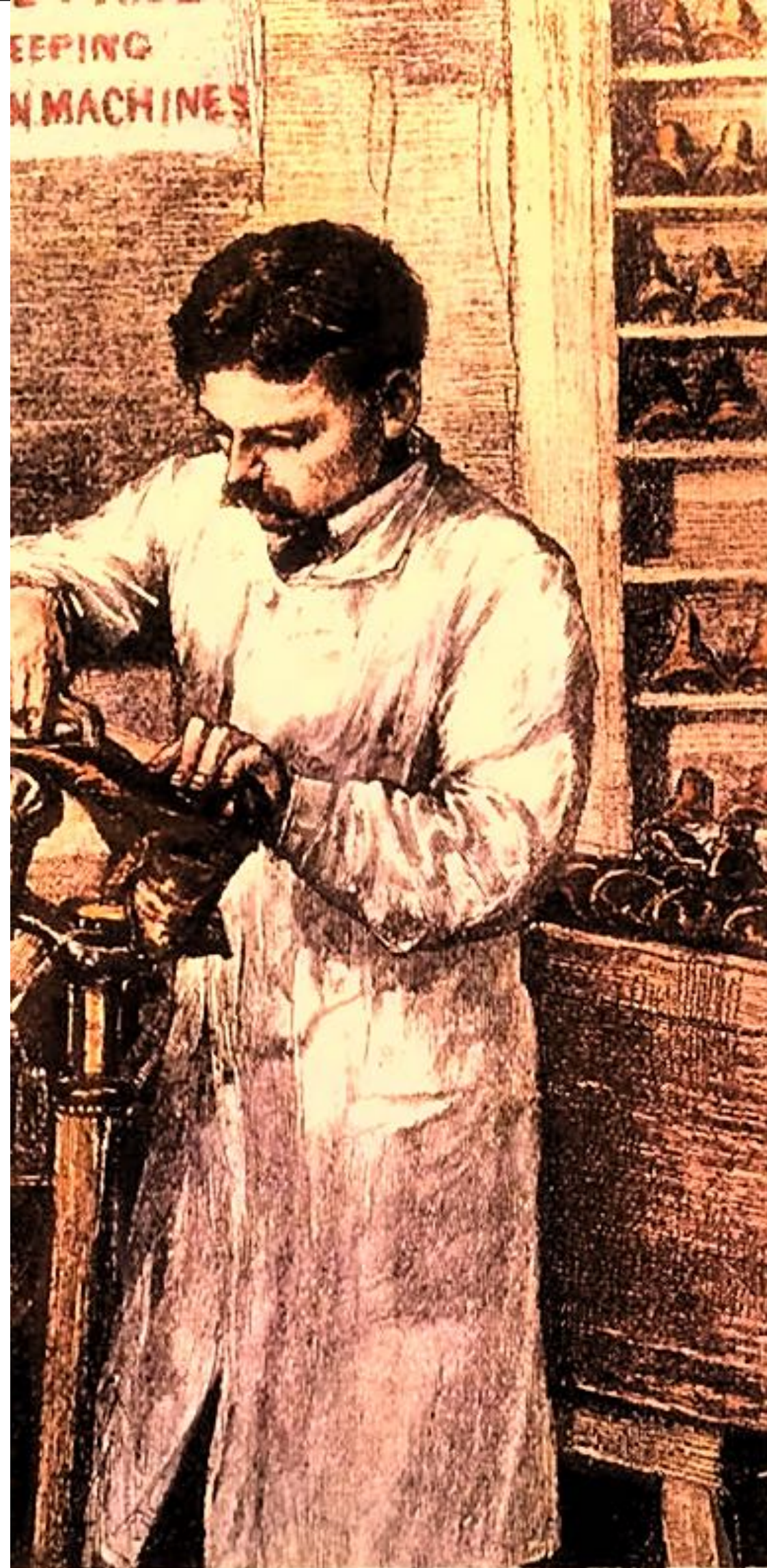
Newcomers to the colony included German farmers. They were attracted by the good, cheap farmland. A new farmer often built a log cabin as his family's first home. He would usually build a larger home of stone and cut wood later. Food was stored in cool, earthen cellars. Farm animals were kept in barns. An entire community often gathered to raise a barn for a neighbor. It usually took them one or two days to do this.

Women raised the children and worked at family tasks such as preparing meals. German farm women introduced foods such as coleslaw, sausage, and waffles to the American diet. Women also spun wool into yarn. They mended and washed clothing. They also churned butter from milk and kept gardens. Boys did farm chores and worked in the fields.

Farm communities were centered around town squares.

About 65,000 Germans settled in Pennsylvania between 1727 and 1775.





Shoemaking was just one of the many trades practiced by men in Pennsylvania.

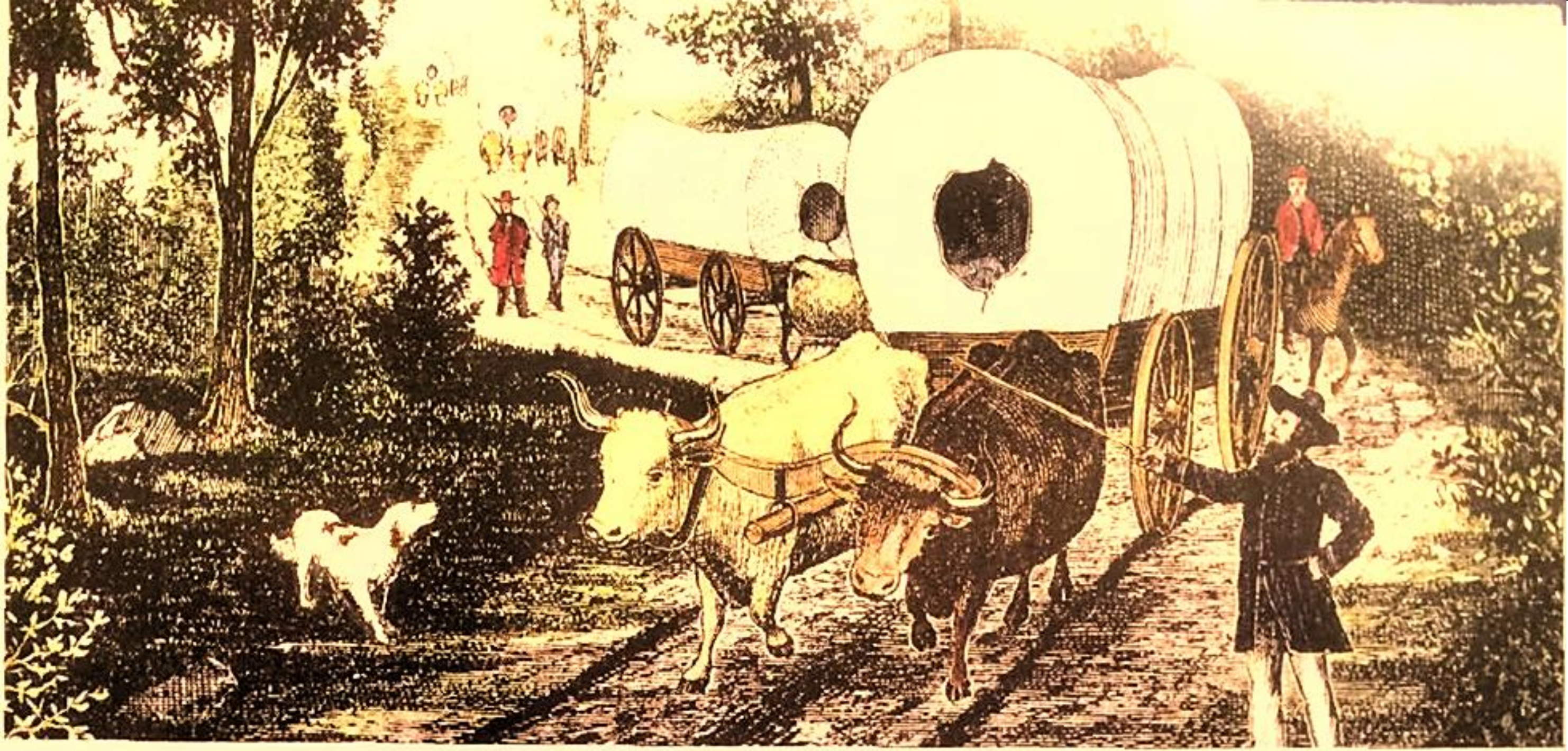
Shoes were often made of leather and wood during colonial times.



Working at a Trade

Farmers used iron-edged wooden tools. They cut crops with long blades. Pennsylvania's land was excellent for growing wheat. Farmers sold it throughout the American

colonies. Many immigrants were skilled at crafts such as shoemaking, baking, ironworking, and tailoring. The products they sold allowed fellow colonists to buy cheaper local goods rather than pay high prices for items brought from England.



Westward expansion was a major part of life in North America during the 18th century.

Spreading West

The colonial government built roads after 1700 to connect Philadelphia with new villages such as Reading and Germantown. Fifty-foot-wide (15 meters) highways allowed travel for stagecoaches, mail carriers, and large Conestoga wagons full of farm goods. But the colonists crossed onto Native American villages and hunting grounds as they pushed west. William Penn's promise of fair treatment was being broken. So was the peace.